

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-49, and consideration of new claim 50, are respectfully requested. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the consideration of all the references on the Information Disclosure Statements.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 102(e) applying U.S. Pat. No. 6,188,822 (the '822 patent). For a patent to be applicable under sec. 102(e), the patent must, *inter alia*, disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the '822 patent does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of amended claim 1. Additionally, the amendment of claim 1 is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests any the features of the claim. Specifically, claim 1 recites a preconnectorized outdoor cable comprising, *inter alia*, at least one plug connector being attached to a first end of the cable, thereby connectorizing a first end of the optical waveguide, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a connector assembly therebetween. Preconnectorizing the cable has advantages such as streamlining the deployment and installation of optical waveguides in FTTx applications. Moreover, preconnectorizing the cables in the factory allows for efficient and reliable production of the assembly.

On the other hand, there is absolutely no objective evidence of record that the '822 patent discloses, teaches, or otherwise suggests preconnectorizing cables. Second, the '822 patent does not disclose, suggest, or otherwise teach a plug connector as recited in amended claim 1. For at least these reasons, the withdrawal of the sec. 102(e) rejection of claim 1 is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15, 17-30, 32-47, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '822 patent in view of U.S. Pat.

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No. 6,234,683 (the '683 patent). For patents to be applicable under sec. 103(a), the combination of teachings must, *inter alia*, expressly or inherently, teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Additionally, motivation and suggestion to combine the patents must be present.

It is respectfully submitted that the purported modification does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 18, or 33; or, their dependent claims. Moreover, the amendment of the independent claims 18 or 33 or any of their dependent claims, is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the features of the claim.

Specifically, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a connector assembly therebetween. On the other hand, the '683 patent requires that the fiber optic connectors 40,50 (i.e. connector assemblies; See Col 5, ll. 36-41 of the '683 patent) are inserted into first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 of a plug insert 20. See Figs. 1,4a, 4b, and 4c of the '683 patent. As illustrated in the '683 patent plug insert 20 is a single component having cantilevered spring latches 24,26. Specifically, the '683 patent states the following at Col. 6, ll. 3-29:

Fig. 4A is a perspective view of the plug insert 20. Plug insert 20 includes first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 for receiving fiber optic assemblies 40,50. The first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 include features that depress the cantilevered spring latches 44,54 of the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 and then upon further insertion, the spring latches 44,54 expand in the first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 so as to securely attach the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 to the plug insert 20. The first and second connector receiving ports 29,30 align the ferrules 42,52 of the fiber optic assemblies 40,50 with respective ferrule apertures 28,37. Associated with first ferrule receiving port or aperture 37 is a plug insert extension 23. The second

ferrule aperture or port 28 has associated therewith a front seal seat 39 (See FIG. 1). A ridge 31 is formed along a portion of a circumference of the plug insert 20. Diametrically opposed to each other are first and second cantilevered spring latches 24, 26. The first cantilevered spring latch 24 includes a first nub feature 25 protruding outward. Located on either side of the first nub feature 25 are tool slide surfaces 35, 36. The second cantilevered spring 26 is constructed in a similar manner having the nub feature 27 protruding outwards and having tool slide surfaces 33, 34. Each of the first and second cantilevered spring latches 24, 26 are mounted so as to be depressed inwards towards each other by at least a distance equal to the amount of each nub features' 25, 27 outward protruding distance.

Thus, as shown by the objective evidence, the purported modification patent fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of amended claim 1. For similar reasons, the purported modification fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of independent claims 18 and 33 and their dependent claims. For at least these reasons, the withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 2-15, 17-30, and 32-47 and 49 is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 31, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '822 patent in view of the '683 patent. The purported modification fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claims for the reasons stated. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 16, 31, and 48 is warranted and is respectfully requested.

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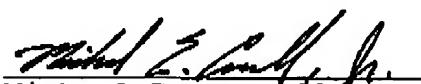
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Fifty dollars (\$50.00) is believed due in connection with this Reply for the addition of one new dependent claim. If any other fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


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